



Description

This custom mixture of wildflowers is made up of species that are specifically native to our area in the Midwest. The mixture is comprised of approximately 75% Perennials, 15% Annuals, 5% Bi-annuals and 5% Low Growing Annuals for first year color. A majority of the perennials need two to three years to bloom. This mixture provides year round interest and once established is very low maintenance. All wildflowers will reach a height between two to six feet. Species in the mixture are subject to change.

Seeding Rate:

New Seeding (bare ground): 32 lbs per acre

Seeding Dates:

March– June

November-February (dormant seeding)

Days to Germinate:

10-28 days as a Mixture

Botanical Name	Common Name	% of Mix	Bloom Color	Bloom Period	Height
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Milkweed	7.5%	Orange	Summer	18-30"
<i>Chrysanthemum maximum</i>	Shasta Daisy	5.0%	White	Summer	18-30"
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lanceleaf Coreopsis	10.0%	Yellow	Summer/Fall	18-36"
<i>Coreopsis tentoria</i>	Plains Coreopsis	2.5%	Yellow/Red	Summer	16-36"
<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	Black Samson	5.0%	Violet	Summer	12-24"
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	12.5%	Purple	Summer	24-36"
<i>Gallardia aristata</i>	Blanketflower	5.0%	Yellow/Red	Summer	18-30"
<i>Gallardia puchella</i>	Indian Blanketflower	5.0%	Yellow/Red	Summer	12-24"
<i>Liatris punctata</i>	Dotted Gayfeather	2.5%	Purple	Summer/Fall	10-16"
<i>Linum Perenne</i>	Blue Flax	.05%	Blue	Spring/Summer	24-36"
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Perennial Lupine	5.0%	Blue	Spring/Summer	12-36"
<i>Monarda citriodora</i>	Lemon Mint	5.0%	Lavender/White	Spring/Summer	12-24"
<i>Penstemon Grandiflorus</i>	Shell Leaf Penstemon	2.5%	Pink/Lavender	Spring/Summer	24-36"
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Mexican Hat	10.0%	Yellow/Red	Summer	12-36"
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Upright Prairie Coneflower	7.5%	Yellow	Summer	12-36"
<i>Rudbeckia Hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	5.0%	Yellow	Summer/Fall	12-36"
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Dwarf Goldenrod	2.5%	Yellow	Summer/Fall	12-24"
<i>Verbena Stricta</i>	Hoary Vervain	2.5%	Purple	Summer	24-36"

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ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE



ESTABLISHMENT Native wildflowers can be established from a number of effective methods. Regardless of the method however, the rate of establishment is directly related to amount of seed-to-soil contact that is achieved. Most native wildflower seeds have a natural dormancy that must be broken in order to germinate. Seed-to-soil contact is one way to break dormancy with the scratching of the seed coat. Once this takes place, then water can be absorbed and thus begin the germination process.

Native wildflowers can be inter-seeded into existing vegetation, drill seeded, broadcast seeded or frost seeded. Again, regardless of the method, finding a way to get the seed into the soil, past any dead (or living) vegetative matter and into the soil is crucial.

For inter-seeding into existing (living) vegetation, a “no-till” mechanical drill is best. The drill can cut past the vegetative matter and place the seed into the soil and pack the soil to achieve good seed-to-soil contact. This method disturbs the existing soil the least amount, thus not disturbing as many weed seeds. If a drill is not an option, then wildflower seed can be broadcast into existing vegetation and worked in lightly to disturb the soil and cover the seed. This can be done with a disk harrow or spike harrow with the spikes turned the opposite direction of the travel path. Although weed seeds will be disturbed and be a potential problem, existing vegetation will be only minimally affected yet still provide “cover” for the young wildflower seedlings. Inter-seeding into an existing native grass stand is the perfect way to add separation for the wildflowers and give that “natural” appearance.

Seeding into bare ground follows much the same premise. Drill seeding is best, broadcast seeding will work fine if the seed can be covered with no more than a $\frac{1}{4}$ of soil. Covering the seeded area with straw or mulch will help to retain soil moisture.

Another highly effective seeding method is dormant (frost) seeding. This is done when the ground is either frozen with or without snow cover or just when the ground is too cold to facilitate germination. It can be seeded by using a mechanical drill, or broadcasting. Much like in established native settings, wildflower seeds will be dispersed by wind or birds, and once the freeze/thaw cycle is complete in the spring, the seeds have gone through a physiological stage that breaks dormancy.

Weeds will be an issue. The more the soil is disturbed, the more the weeds will become a problem. Controlling weeds before they produce seed will shorten the amount of time that the wildflower stand will eventually take over. If the area is large, hand weeding may not be the most viable option, so mowing the weeds may be the only option. With no commercially available herbicides for post-emergence weed control. Weed control during establishment will be the biggest challenge. For larger areas, this can be somewhat alleviated by seeding the wildflowers with native grasses. Weed control becomes easier when the wildflowers become well rooted and are not easily pulled out with the weeds.

MAINTENANCE The whole idea behind the Native Wildflower mix is low maintenance. Once established, the wildflowers will re-seed themselves, further thickening the stand. Fertilizer is not generally needed unless the soils are deficient; Water is generally not needed, although in exceptionally dry weather to prevent death watering is recommended. The wildflower stand can be mowed down in the spring to help encourage new growth and distribute seeds. Weeding may be needed, but as time goes by, the wildflower stand will thicken and increase.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS Creating a native setting cannot be mimicked in one, or even two years. Above all else, patience is the biggest factor in creating native wildflower (and native grass) habitat that looks like the real thing. To help “speed-up” the establishment we would encourage incorporating native grasses within the area as well. Native grasses add separation to the wildflowers, which add to the authentic native look, as well as helping to control weeds and retain moisture. A suggested course of action would be to establish the native grasses first, then two to three years down the road, incorporate any wildflowers you wish to establish.